

Clean set of claims for Amendment A dated 9 May 2002  
S/N: 09/654,201  
Atty. Docket No.: 4285.16408-CIP

Claim 16 (amended)

A method of fabricating a surgical needle assembly for endodontic procedures including the steps of:

providing a tubular shaft;

die cutting said shaft to provide a surgical needle of predetermined length;

machining one end of said needle to provide a skived portion of predetermined length;

providing a hub member having a cup-like interior;

supplying an autoclavable adhesive to the cup-like interior of said hub member; and

inserting the opposite end in said adhesive for retention and support thereof by said hub member;

providing an angle-adjustment sleeve;

placing said angle-adjustment sleeve over the needle and into said adhesive for retention and support thereof by said hub member.

Claim 17 (amended)

A method of fabricating a surgical needle assembly for endodontic procedures including the steps of:

providing a tubular shaft;

die cutting said shaft to provide a surgical needle of predetermined length;

machining one end of said needle to provide a skived portion of predetermined length;

providing a hub member having a cup-like interior;

supplying an autoclavable adhesive to the cup-like interior of said hub member; and

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inserting the opposite end in said adhesive for retention and support thereof by said hub member;

providing an angle-adjustment sleeve;

positioning said angle-adjustment sleeve over said needle;

forming a pressure stressed connection between said angle-adjustment and said needle by deforming said angle-adjustment sleeve.

*a' case*  
*d2*  
Claim 22 (amended) 5

The needle assembly of claim 18, wherein the angle-adjustment sleeve is secured to said needle using a pressure stressed connection.